

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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61

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EI

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS CRITICISM OF GOI BY AMERICAN OFFICIAL

1. DUBLIN "SUNDAY PRESS" MAY 4 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY REPORTER JOHN KELLY ON DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN, A MEMBER OF "IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS" IN US. ARTICLE IS HEADLINED "FORD AIDE HITS BACK AT O'BRIEN," A REF TO MINISTER CONOR CRUISE-O'BRIEN, WHO RECENTLY APPEALED TO AMERICANS TO HALT FLOW OF DONATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL IRA. THE ARTICLE BEGINS:

"A THIRTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD IRISH-AMERICAN LAWYER, WORKING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, HAS SAID THAT ATTEMPTS MADE BY IRISH POLITICIANS AND SPOKESMEN IN THE UNITED STATES TO HALT THE FLOW OF CASH DONATIONS FOR NORTHERN ORGANISATION ENCOURAGES, RATHER THAN DAMAGES, FUND-RAISING THERE. THE LAWYER, DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN, FROM BOSTON, WORKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON AMNESTY IN THE WHITE HOUSE." ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT DR. BURNS O'BRIEN VISITED IRELAND LAST WEEK WITH CODEL BIAGGI. (EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS.) REPORTER CONTINUES:

"DR. O'BRIEN, WHO STARTED HIS CAREER AS A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE LATE SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY, DENIES CATEGORICALLY THAT THE CAUCUS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FUND-RAISING FOR REPUBLICAN ORGANISATIONS, BUT THAT IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF ABOUT 13 MILLION AMERICANS WHO HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE, AND IS CLOSELY AFFILIATED WITH HUGE AMERICAN LABOUR ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE MAMMOTH A.F.L.-C.I.O. TRADE UNION."

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2. "IRISH PRESS" MAY 5 HAS A LETTER FROM DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN IN WHICH HE IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS. THE LETTER IS APPARENTLY INTENDED AS A RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR LETTER IN THE PRESS LAST WEEK BY DR. CRUISE-O'BRIEN, WHICH NOTED THAT THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS HAD ACCUSED GOI OF SENDING ASSASSINATION SQUADS INTO NE. DR. BURNS O'BRIEN SAYS:

"THE CAUCUS HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM FIVE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE NORTH WHEN 12 AASASSINATIONS TOOK PLACE. THEY STATED KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE IRISH SPECIAL BRANCH WERE IN THE AREA AND THE PROPLE SUSPECTED THEM. IRISH AUTHORITIES IN THE STATES WERE ASKED TO CONFIRM OR DENY. THEY REFUSED WITH INDIGNATION. ONE MUST THEN MAKE A CONCLUSION ON THE FACTS AVAILABLE AND CONCLUDE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD INDISCRETIONS TO CONCEAL, A TACTIC WE IN THE STATES ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH IN THE SHADOW OF WATERGATE. ALSO, DR. (CRUISE) O'BRIEN DID NOT HIMSELF DENY THE FACTS."

ENTIRE TEXT OF LETTER SENT SEPTTEL.

3. "IRISH TIMES" MAY 6 ALSO REPORTS RECEIVING A LETTER FROM DR. BURNS O'BRIEN. FULL TEXT IS NOT PUBLISHED, BUT LETTER IS EXCERPTED IN A NEWS ARTICLE TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL. LETTER REPORTEDLY SAYS THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE REPUBLIC AS WELL AS NI, SINCE THE "SOUTHERN STATELET" HAS A "CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT" AND LEGISLATION THAT INCARCERATES POLITICAL PRISONERS.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL CERTAINLY GET QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE LETTERS AND ARTICLES, SINCE THEY SUGGEST THAT A USG OFFICIAL IS ATTACKING THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOI.

REND AHL

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